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33. THE PREDATORY CENTIPEDE *SCOLAPENDRA* SP.

The large yellow and black-banded centipede of the genus *Scolapendra* is an active and voracious predator of small animals and ground nesting birds during the monsoon in Saurashtra. Nestlings of such birds as larks are in particular danger. I still vividly remember a medium sized toad grasped by the hind-quarters by a large *Scolopendra* which had

half its four-inch body firmly attached in a crevasse. The toad was held by several pairs of pincer like legs and was being eaten alive—a large wound had already been opened in the victim's left flank by the feeding centipede when I came across the scene! Unfortunately, it was dusk and though I had a camera, I had no flash apparatus to photograph the event.

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